

## Protest Against it.

At the last session of Congress a resolution was adopted requesting the President to take steps to reopen with Great Britain, the question of pelagic sealing in Behring Sea. For some reason or other the United States government has been moved by interested parties to endeavour to re-open this question, which was settled in 1893 by the tribunal which met at Paris. The decision at that time was, like most international decisions between two great powers, reached at the expense of the Canadian sealers.

What is known as pelagic sealing, is the interception of the seals on their way to and from the breeding grounds which lie to the north and are known as the Prybloff Islands. After the breeding season the seals leave the islands and swim southward to a point somewhere opposite the State of California. Shortly afterwards, they start on the return trip and, by a curious instinct, head again for the Prybloff Islands.

The Company which has the lease of the islands and which profits by the fur, objects to this procession, southward and then northward being interrupted by the industrious fishermen who go out and endeavour to earn a livelihood in this way.

They at first advocated the idea strenuously that Behring Sea was a closed sea;

they also contended that the seals belonged to them from the moment they left the Prybloff Islands till the moment they returned. This was a very nice theory of course, and permitted the American company to get all the seals on the islands and kill them with a club. They did succeed in having the use of firearms prohibited, and also secured a zone around the Prybloff Islands within which the fishermen could not go even during the open season.

There were various other regulations adopted in the interest of the United States; but somehow or other the United States is now anxious to re-open the question, with the expectation, we presume, of securing greater privileges.

What we desire to point out is that as things are going an international tribunal is pretty sure to decide from a political standpoint and for political reasons, and the chances, we fear, would be greatly in favor of Canadians being further deprived of their right to pursue seals in the ocean.

For this reason the Canadian government should watch the matter closely and endeavor to learn what answer the British Government will make to the request of the President, and if it is at all in favor of allowing the question to be re-opened, the authorities at Ottawa should oppose such a decision.